the Allies on official buildings; orders of the occupation command posted in prominent places.

Defeat had come to the Germans unexpectedly. Long after the German High Command realized that the war had been lost, it kept the people ignorant of the approaching catastrophe. As early as September 29, 1918, Field Marshal Hindenburg and his chief of staff, Ludendorff, wired the Kaiser that they could not hold the front any longer and asked that negotiations for an armistice be started at once. Then came the revolution. Early in November a mutiny broke out among the sailors in Kiel. Riots spread out among reserve troops and the civilian population. Crowds in the streets demanded the abdication of the Kaiser. He fled to Holland, Germany was proclaimed a republic, and the S-D, as the strongest party on the left, came into power.

Councils of workers and soldiers were established in all the cities. Two weeks later a conference of representatives of local governments convened in Berlin and decided that a National Constituent Assembly should be elected at once, on the basis of universal suffrage. A handful of left-wing Socialists (Spartakists—members of the Spartacus party) opposed the idea of a parliamentary regime in Germany, demanding that all power be given to the councils of workers and soldiers. In order to prevent the convocation of the Constituent Assembly, they made a desperate attempt to seize power in Berlin four days before the elections. The attempt was suppressed by the government. Two leaders of the Spartakists, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, were seized by a group of officers and murdered on the way to prison.

The Spartakist riots, planned as a repetition of the November coup in Russia, became the counterpart of the July riots. In Russia, however, the rightists had used the riots to postpone elections to the Constituent Assembly, while in Germany they did not repeat this tragic mistake. The elections were held as planned. The National Assembly convened in Weimar on February 6, 1919. A republican constitution was promulgated, and the S-D leader, Ebert, was elected President. The Weimar Republic, however, left intact the bridges leading back to the past: the military forces, reduced by the peace treaty, remained in the hands of the old Prussian generals; the courts, in the hands of the judges appointed by the Kaiser; the schools, in the hands of reactionary superintendents.

The abortive *Putsch* in Berlin in March, 1920, was a fairly close counterpart of Kornilov's mutiny in Russia. A commander stationed in the capital encircled and occupied public buildings with his troops and made an official of the old regime, Kapp, head of a new government. Labor unions declared a general strike and called the workers